

Serial No. 09/447,500

REMARKS

The Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Arani for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-25, 29, 30, and 32-40 and for his careful review of this application. Claims 1-40 have been rejected by the Examiner. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 27, 29, and 31 are cancelled and Claims 1-26, 28, 30, and 32-40 remain pending in this application. The independent claims are Claims 1, 18, 26, and 32. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks.

Notice of Information Disclosure Statement to be filed by Applicant

The Applicant advises the Examiner that the Applicant will be filing a very large information disclosure statement that will include at least four boxes of materials for the Examiner's review. The Applicant intends to file this IDS by July 22, 2005 or July 26, 2005 via U.S. Mail. The Applicant appreciates it if the Examiner could extend the professional courtesy of not issuing any Official Action until the IDS has been received and reviewed by the Examiner. Because of the size of the IDS filing, the Applicant must submit it by First Class U.S. mail instead of fax. If the Examiner has any questions about this IDS submission, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (404)572-2884 in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 26-28, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,345,595 issued in the name of Johnson et al. (hereinafter, the "Johnson reference"). The Applicant respectfully offers remarks to traverse these pending rejections.

The Applicant has cancelled allowable dependent Claim 29, its corresponding dependent Claim 27, and inserted the subject matter contained therein into independent Claim 26. The Applicant has also cancelled independent Claim 31. This cancellation and amendment have rendered the Examiner's arguments with respect to independent Claim 26 and its remaining dependent claims and independent Claim 31 as moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested. Further, an early notice of allowance is also respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/447,500


The Applicant notes that a continuation application may be filed to pursue previously rejected Claims 26-28 and 31. The Applicant wants the file wrapper record to be clear that this amendment to the claims to include the allowable subject matter should not affect the Applicant's rights to pursue the rejected claims in a later filed continuation application. This amendment is not an admission of any kind by the Applicant with respect to the Examiner's position regarding Claims 26-28 and 31.

Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on April 21, 2005. The Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Arani for consideration of these remarks. The Applicant has amended the claims and has submitted remarks to traverse rejections of Claims 1-40. The Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is hereby courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any formalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact the undersigned in the Atlanta Metropolitan area (404) 572-2884.

Respectfully submitted,


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